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 BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, N.Y.
 ROBERT J. LAGOMAREINO, CALIF.
 WILLIAM F. GOODLING, PA.
 JOEL PRITCHARD, WASH.
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1010
 Congress of the United States
 Committee on Foreign Affairs

House of Representatives
 Washington, D.C. 20515

CW010

JOHN J. BRADY, JR.
 CHIEF OF STAFF

May 18, 1982

His Excellency Esteban A. Takacs
 Ambassador of Argentina
 to the United States
 Embassy of Argentina
 1600 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20009

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
 U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
 Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
 (✓) Release () Excise () Deny
 Exemption(s): _____
 Declassify: () In Part () In Full
 () Classify as _____ () Extend as _____ () Downgrade to _____
 Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

The purpose of this letter is to follow-up on a conversation we had several months ago on the problem of the disappeared in your country. I understand your point that it is impossible for your government to provide information on the disappeared where none exists. Nevertheless, I would like to bring to your attention the following human rights cases where information does exist, trusting that you will convey my interest to your government and will share with me any information you might have on these cases.

I have been asked by the family and friends of Juan Carlos Rodriguez to intercede on his behalf. I understand that Mr. Rodriguez was arrested in the city of Cordoba on March 18, 1975, and although charges against him were dropped in 1981, he is still imprisoned at La Plata under PEN. In recent months, your government has been reviewing cases of prisoners being held under PEN and releasing many of them. I hope that Mr. Rodriguez will be included in one of these early releases, and be allowed to receive an interview by U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service officers.

Mr. Crisanto Ripodas and Mr. Ricardo Ripodas have been in prison in Argentina since 1974 under PEN. Although both of them have received certificates of eligibility to travel to the United States, apparently Ricardo Ripodas was denied the right of option on December 21, 1981, and as of March 22, 1982, Mr. Crisanto Ripodas had not received a response to his January 14 petition for the right of option. I trust that their cases will be reviewed in the near future and that they will be released.

Juan Rodolfo Begnardi was arrested on November 9, 1975 and is still detained at La Plata. According to reports I have received, he has been denied the right to leave the country on six occasions. I ask that he too be released in the near future.

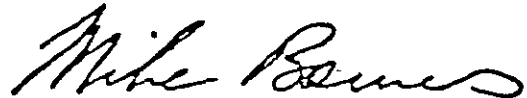
His Excellency Estéban A. Takacs
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One of my colleagues in Congress has also asked me to intercede on behalf of Claudio Gerbilsky who was apparently arrested by the armed forces on August 9, 1977. I would appreciate your sharing with me any information you might have on his case.

I was encouraged by reports in the press that your government intends to provide information on the disappeared to their families, and I am anxiously awaiting the initiation of this process.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mike Barnes", with a stylized, cursive script.

Michael D. Barnes
Chairman
Subcommittee on Inter-
American Affairs

MDB:lpn